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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/731,175	Applicant(s) SCHNEIDER, RICHARD J.	
	Examiner Thuy-Vi Nguyen	Art Unit 4175	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/18/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Summary of invention is missing in the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Applicant's use of the phrase "visual report" in line 33, claim 9 is indefinite because it is unclear as to the meaning of the limitation. Is it the same type of report that mentioned in claim 1 or is it a different report? If claim 9 depends on claim 1 then the phrase should be "a report". Examiner interprets the phrase "visual report" in claim 9 should depend on claim 6 and the phrase "report" in claim 11 should be "visual report" if it depends on claim 9, or otherwise should depend on claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Howington (US Patent Application Publication US 2002/0152120).

Regarding to claim 41, Howington discloses system for displaying the past payout data of a gaming machine, comprising:

a plurality of gaming machines, each gaming machine having a display [...for example when the player is using the magnetic card at the gaming machine, the funds of the patron is adjusted. It is considered that the gaming machine should display the patron's funds balance when the magnetic card is first inserted or every time the players win or lose some money; see par. 0058, lines 10-14; par. 0063]. Furthermore, it is also well known in the art that gaming machine should have a display.

a server coupled to the plurality of gaming machines [...management server 902; see par. 00257, lines 4-7; par. 0032, lines 12-15; par. 0040, lines 19-24 and figure 9];

past play data stored on the server [...tracking machine history; see par. 0019 and figures 7-9]; and

a processor structured to analyze the past play data and to generate indicia on the display, the indicia corresponding to the past play data [...computers, laptop or PDA; see par. 0040, lines 6-11 and figure9; also see figures 4-8 for the display of the past play data].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-8, 15-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (2003/0220139) in view of Howington (2002/0152120).

Regarding to claim 1, Peterson discloses a method for communicating a gaming machine's past payouts to a player comprising:

tracking gaming machine payout data [...collects the machine's current or historical jackpot winning information; see par. 0009, lines 7-17; par. 0018, lines 9-13; par. 0022 and figures 3-6];

communicating to the player a report derived from the record [...display the activities of gambling machines/report in the casino to their existing and potential customers; see par. 0002 and figures 4 and 6].

However, Peterson fails to explicitly disclose storing a record of the payout data in memory accessible by the gaming machine.

Howington discloses storing a record of the payout data in memory accessible by the gaming machine [see par. 0028, lines 5-10; par. 0040, lines 15-29 and figure 9].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of tracking gaming machine for winning information and communicate that information to the player include the method of storing the gaming machine payout in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win.

Regarding to claim 2, Peterson discloses in which tracking gaming machine payout data comprises tracking winning events [...collects the machine's current or historical jackpot winning information; see par. 0009, lines 7-17; par. 0018, lines 9-13 and figure 4];

Regarding to claim 3, Peterson discloses in which tracking gaming machine payout data comprises tracking the frequency of winning events in a selected time period [see par. 0009, lines 10-17; par. 0018, lines 9-13 and figure 4].

Regarding to claim 4, Peterson discloses in which tracking gaming machine payout data comprises tracking particular hand types [see figure 4].

Regarding to claim 5, Howington discloses in which tracking gaming machine payout data further comprises:

tracking the gaming machine's typical payout data [...tracking average daily wins; see figures 7-8];

selecting a, time period [see par. 0032, lines 1-8 and figure 5]; and

comparing the gaming machine's typical payout data to the machine's payout data for the selected time period [...total wins; see par. 0037, lines 1-10; par. 0039 and figures 7-8].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of tracking gaming machine for winning information and communicate that information to the player include the method of selecting the machine's typical payout data; compare that to the machine payout data in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win based on the tracking of winning information.

Regarding to claim 6, Peterson discloses in which communicating to the player a report comprises communicating a visual report [...winning information is displayed on the display monitor 30; see par. 0019, lines 1-3; figures 4 and 6].

Regarding to claim 7, Peterson discloses in which the visual report is communicated through a display associated with the gaming machine [...winning

information is displayed on the display monitor 30; see par. 0019, lines 1-3; figures 4 and 6].

Regarding to claim 8, Peterson discloses in which the visual report is communicated through a terminal remote from the gaming machine [see par. 0010, lines 5-8; par. 0021, lines 1-4; figures 2 and 6].

Regarding to claim 15, Peterson discloses in which communicating to the player a report comprises communicating to the player a standard report [...jackpot winning information from the plurality of gaming machines is displayed on the display board 85; see par 0022, lines 1-5 and figures 4 and 6].

Regarding to claim 16, Peterson discloses in which in which communicating to the player a report comprises communicating to the player a custom report [...jackpot winning information is also included time, date and last pay out and different type of games; see par. 0018, lines 9-13 and figure 4].

Regarding to claim 17, Peterson discloses in which communicating to the player a report comprises communicating the report to the player before the player enters a game floor [...for example the winning information is displayed on a display board 85 is located in outside the casino. It is considered that this information communicate to the player a report before they enter to a game floor; see par. 0022, lines 1-8].

Regarding to claim 18, Peterson discloses in which the report is communicated to the player through electronic means [see par. 0022; figures 3-6].

Regarding to claim 19, Peterson discloses in which communicating to the player a report further comprises communicating the report to a plurality of players [...for example the winning information is displayed on a display board 85 is located in outside the casino. It is considered that this information communicate to the plurality of players; see par. 0022, lines 1-8].

Regarding to claim 20, Peterson discloses in which the report is communicated to a subset of the plurality of players [...for example the winning information is displayed on a display board 85 is located in inside the casino. It is considered that this information communicate to the players within the inside casino only; see par. 0022, lines 1-8].

Regarding to claim 21, Howington discloses in which the subset of the plurality of players are enrolled in a player tracking system [...for example, collection of patron data using patron club cards; see par. 0020].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of tracking gaming machine for winning information and communicate that information to the player include the method of tracking the subset of the plurality of the players in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win and also provide the rewards to the loyal player to create more attraction at the casino.

Regarding to claim 22, Howington discloses in which the subset of the plurality of players are players with high player value ratings [see par. 0047, lines 1-6].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of tracking gaming machine for winning information and communicate that information to the player include the method of tracking the subset of the plurality of the players are players with high player value ratings in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win and also provide the rewards to the loyal player to create more attraction at the casino.

Regarding to claim 23, Howington discloses in which the report comprises a color code corresponding to the payout data [...different colors depending on their performance; see par. 0044, lines 9-14; par. 0049].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of tracking gaming machine for winning information and communicate that information to the player include the method of creating a color code to the payout data in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the color attraction and the opportunity to customers

for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win.

Regarding to claim 24, Howington discloses in which the color code is associated with the gaming machine [see par. 0044, lines 9-14; par. 0049].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of tracking gaming machine for winning information and communicate that information to the player include the method of creating a color code to the payout data in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the color attraction and the opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win.

Regarding to claim 25, Howington discloses in which the color code is associated with a plurality of gaming machines [see par. 0044, lines 9-14; par. 0049].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of tracking gaming machine for winning information and communicate that information to the player include the method of creating a color code to the payout data in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the color attraction and the opportunity to customers

for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win.

Regarding to claim 26, Howington discloses in which the plurality of gaming machines are sortable by color code [see par. 0039, lines 3-7; par. 0044, lines 9-14; par. 0049 and figure 9].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of tracking gaming machine for winning information and communicate that information to the player include the method of gamming machine are sortable by color code in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the color attraction and the opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win.

Regarding to claim 27, Howington discloses further comprising printing a map of the plurality of gaming machines [...map layout; see figures 10-12].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of tracking gaming machine for winning information and communicate that information to the player include the method of printing a map of the plurality of gamming machines in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the customer the direction to the

gaming machines and the opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win.

Regarding to claim 28, Peterson discloses in which the record comprises data corresponding to a selected time period [see par. 0018, lines 9-13 and figure 4].

Regarding to claim 29, Peterson discloses in which the selected time period is an elapsed time between specific payouts [see par. 0018, lines 9-13 and figure 4].

Regarding to claim 30, Peterson discloses the selected time period is configured by a user [see par. 0018, lines 9-16].

Regarding to claim 31, Peterson discloses in which the record comprises data corresponding to a number of plays between winning events [...jack pot winning information; see par. 0018, lines 9-13 and figure 4].

Regarding to claim 32, Peterson discloses in which the record comprises data corresponding to particular outcomes [see figure 4].

Regarding to claim 33, Peterson discloses in which the record comprises data derived from a plurality of gaming machines [see figures 4-6].

Regarding to claim 34, Howington discloses in which the record is sortable by the frequency of winning events [see figures 7 and 8].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of tracking gaming machine for winning information and communicate that information to the player include the method of gaming machines record is sortable by the frequency of winning events in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have

been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the better view and the opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win.

Regarding to claim 35, Peterson discloses a method for generating a report of a gaming machine's past payouts, comprising:

- creating a record of payout data [... for example; see the record for the last winning of gambling machine #1; see figure 4];

- tracking payout data [...collect winning information; see par. 9-13; par. 0022, lines 1-4];

- generating the report [...for example; jackpot winning information transmits to the display means; see par. 0009, lines 16-17; see figure 4].

- communicating the report to the player [...display the activities of gambling machines/report in the casino to their existing and potential customers; see par. 0002 and figures 4 and 6].

- accepting criteria to generate a report derived from the payout data [...criteria such as winning information including time, date, last reward jackpot; see par. 0009, lines 12-17 and figure 4].

However, Peterson fails to explicitly disclose storing tracked payout data in the record; allowing a player to access a report generator.

Howington discloses storing tracked payout data in the record [see par. 0040, lines 15-29 and figure 9]; allowing a player to access a report generator [...allowing

the player using the club cards/magnetic cards which contain player information at the gaming machine; see par. 0036, lines 1-5; par. lines 10-14].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of tracking gaming machine for winning information and communicate that information to the player include the method of storing the gaming machine payout and allow the player access in to the report in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win and also tracking their balance account when using the club card at the resort.

Regarding to claim 36, Peterson discloses in which communicating the report to the player comprises communicating a standard report to the player [...jackpot winning information from the plurality of gaming machines is displayed on the display board 85; see par 0022, lines 1-5 and figures 4 and 6].

Regarding to claim 37, Peterson discloses in which communicating the report to the player comprises communicating a custom report to the player [...jackpot winning information is also included time, date and last pay out and different type of games; see par. 0018, lines 9-13 and figure 4].

Regarding to claim 38, Howington discloses a system for displaying a gaming machine's historical payout data, comprising:

a gaming machine [see figures 1 and 2];

a report generator coupled to the memory and configured to communicate payout data to a player [gambling control unit; see par. 9-16; par. 0022, lines 1-5 and figure3].

However Peterson fails to explicitly disclose memory for storing a record of machine payouts.

Howington discloses memory for storing a record of machine payouts [...machine data 906 and patron data 908; see figure 9].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson about the method of generating report winning information to the player include the method of storing the gaming machine payout data in view of the teaching to Howington. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win.

Regarding to claim 39, Peterson discloses further comprising a plurality of gaming machines and a network interconnecting the plurality of gaming machines [see par. 0018, lines 9-16; par. 00199, lines 1-4 and figures 2-3].

Regarding to claim 40, Peterson discloses further comprising a display [...display monitor 30; see par. 0020; lines 1-2 and figure 6].

9. Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (2003/0220139), in view of Howington (2002/0152120), and further in view of Benoy et al. (2003/00544878).

Regarding to claim 9, Peterson as modified by Howington discloses the invention substantially as claimed as discussed above. However, Peterson as modified by Howington fails to explicitly disclose the visual report is printed.

Benoy et al disclose the visual report is printed; and visual report is printed at the gaming machine [...player information is printed at gaming machine; see par. 0066, lines 8-12; 0076, lines 15-20 and figure 3A].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson as modified by Howington about the method of winning information/visual report and communicate that information to the player to include the method of printing the visual report at the gaming machine in view of the teaching to Benoy. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win and also provide the player tracking services by creating a profile to keep track their visit for the gaming services offered.

Regarding to claim 10, Peterson as modified by Howington discloses the invention substantially as claimed as discussed above. However, Peterson as modified by Howington fails to explicitly disclose the visual report is printed at the gaming machine.

Benoy et al disclose the visual report is printed at the gaming machine [...player information is printed at gaming machine; see par. 0066, lines 8-12; 0076, lines 15-20 and figure 3A].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson as modified by Howington about the method of winning information/visual report and communicate that information to the player to include the method of printing the visual report at the gaming machine in view of the teaching to Benoy. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win and also provide the player tracking services by creating a profile to keep track their visit for the gamming services offered.

Regarding to claim 11, Peterson as modified by Howington discloses the invention substantially as claimed as discussed above. However, Peterson as modified by Howington fails to explicitly disclose the report is printed remote from the gaming machine.

Benoy et al disclose which the report is printed remote from the gaming machine [... a clerk validation terminal may print out a transaction receipt; see par. 0084, lines 1-4].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson as modified by Howington about the method of winning information and communicate that information to the player to include the method of printing the visual report at the gaming machine in view of the teaching to Benoy. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to

customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win and also provide the player tracking services by creating a profile to keep track their visit for the gambling services offered.

Regarding to claim 12, Peterson as modified by Howington discloses the invention substantially as claimed as discussed above. However, Peterson as modified by Howington fails to explicitly disclose communicating to the player a report comprises communicating an aural report.

Benoy et al disclose in which communicating to the player a report comprises communicating an aural report [...aurally communicate gambling information to the player; see par. 0105, lines 1-6].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson as modified by Howington about the method of winning information and communicate that information to the player to include the method of establishing an aural report in view of the teaching to Benoy. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win and also provide the better gambling services using the aural report through the speaker to even attract more customer; for example people who have disability of seeing.

Regarding to claim 13, Peterson as modified by Howington discloses the invention substantially as claimed as discussed above. However, Peterson as

modified by Howington fails to explicitly disclose the aural report is communicated through a speaker associated with the gaming machine.

Benoy et al disclose in which the aural report is communicated through a speaker associated with the gaming machine [...aurally communicate gambling information to the player; see par. 0105, lines 1-6; par. 0125, line 8; see figure 4B for speaker 56; figure 7, speaker 10].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson as modified by Howington about the method of winning information and communicate that information to the player to include the method of establishing an aural report in view of the teaching to Benoy. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win and also provide the better gambling services using the aural report through the speaker to even attract more customer; for example people who have disability of seeing.

Regarding to claim 14, Peterson as modified by Howington discloses the invention substantially as claimed as discussed above. However, Peterson as modified by Howington fails to explicitly disclose the aural report is communicated through a speaker remote from the gaming machine.

Benoy et al disclose in which the aural report is communicated through a speaker remote from the gaming machine [...speaker 56 at the player tracking unit 300; see par. 0108, lines 11-14 and figure 5].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Peterson as modified by Howington about the method of winning information and communicate that information to the player to include the method of establishing an aural report in view of the teaching to Benoy. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide the attraction and opportunity to customers for selecting which jackpot machine they should play and have a better chance to win and also provide the better gaming services using the aural report through the speaker to even attract more customer; for example people who have disability of seeing.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. The US Patent Application Publication to Vuong et al disclose a method that enables casinos to identify and reward loyal players regardless of whether the player is on-site or remote or playing a table game or a slot machine, and to Walker discloses a method and system for automatically operating a game machine.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy-Vi Nguyen whose telephone number is

571-270-1614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrence Till can be reached on 571-272-1280. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Terrence R Till/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4175

/T. N./

Examiner, Art Unit 4175